History, Coimbatore and Dr. Justus Joshua, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for their help.

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22. RAINBOW TROUT (*SALMO GAIRDNERII*) IN ANAIMALAI HILLS, WESTERN GHATS

The rainbow trout *Salmo gairdnerii* is an anadromous fish like Salmon. It was introduced in India from United Kingdom, New Zealand and Sri Lanka in 1869 (Talwar and Jhingran 1991). The first attempt to import trout eggs and fry from abroad was made in 1863 by Francis Day (Jhingran and Sehgal 1978).

Introduction of trout into Kerala and its present status

Introduction of trout into Kerala dates back to 1909 when eyed-eggs of *Salmo trutta fario* were brought from the United Kingdom. A hatchery was made at Kanniamallay estate for brown trout. But these efforts met with little success, hence efforts to introduce brown trout were given up in Kerala in favour of rainbow trout. A rainbow trout hatchery was established in 1941 at Eraviculam. Another hatchery at Rajamalai was established to meet the demand for the Maddupatty and Kundally reservoirs, Elephant and Devikulam lakes, Kadallar, Pettimudi and Rajamalai streams. The management of trout fishery through hatcheries and its introduction in reservoirs and hillstreams was controlled by the High Range Angling Association, Munnar. In 1943, Dr. Freeman transplanted rainbow trout fingerlings in the Konalar streams, near Valparai, Tamil Nadu from Munnar High Range zone, Kerala (Jhingran and Sehgal, 1978). In 1939, trout hatchery management and stocking of the streams with trout achieved great success in Munnar. Molesworth and Bryant (1921) and Mackay (1945) reported their findings on trout in Travancore and the Nilgiris. After that there is no literature on the culture or natural occurrence of trout in Anaimalai.

The Rainbow trout *Salmo gairdnerii* is now well established in streams and rivers of Munnar and Valparai. Last year, a survey was conducted in the Anaimalai hills which confirmed the occurrence of *S. gairdnerii* in the wild. During our survey we were able to collect three

specimens of average SL 20 cm. from Konalar stream, in the sholas (hilly grassland) of Anaimalai hills near Valparai; two specimens each from Eravikulamar and streams flowing through Kannandevan tea estate (SL 12 cm). From the Konalar stream, the only species recorded was *Salmo gairdnerii*. According to W.S.W. Mackay, all our streams including the Eravikulam were, before the advent of the rainbow trout, full of an indigenous fish *Glyptothorax madraspatenus*. This species was not obtained in our collections. But from Munnar we have recorded a few fry of genus *Garra* and *Puntius melanampyx* along with trout. Our collection sites were located at an altitude between 1300 and 1950 m above msl and the temperature ranged from 12°-20° C.

January 29, 1988

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Ed: In addition to the references given above, other useful references are comments by Francis Day in "Fishes of India"; also "History of transplantation and introduction of fishes in India", by S. Jones & K.K. Sarojini (1952) *JBNHS* 50(3): 594-609; and Day, F. (1876) On the introduction of trout and tench into India. *J. Linn. Soc.* 1876: 562-565.

23. *SICYOPTERUS GRISEUS* (DAY) FROM PERIYAR RIVER, KERALA

The fish *Sicyopterus griseus* (Day) inhabits torrential streams, and its general body form and structure of lips, rostral fold and pelvic fins are well adapted for combating strong currents. It is stoutly built, with the head and the anterior part of the body slightly depressed, while the tail is compressed. The eyes are situated dorsolaterally in the anterior part of the head. The inter-orbital space is broad and slightly concave. Mouth nearly horizontal; lower margin of upper lip with short papillae. The anterior lip is covered by the rostral fold which is broadly fimbriated. Scales of head and nape are cycloid, smaller than those in the middle of the body, about 80 scales in longitudinal series.

This fish is fairly common in the Madras backwaters (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Hora (1941) reported its range extension to Travancore. He redescribed the species from the collection taken by Dr. S. Jones on 8th June 1941, from the Kallar stream, 48 km northeast of Trivandrum. Since 1941, there was no report on this fish from any river in Kerala.

On 12th June 1997, we collected a single specimen of this species from Kalady, Periyar river, Kerala. Its habitat was characterised by the presence of pebbles and boulders along with sand at the bottom, 50 m above msl. The importance of this report is that it was the first time after an interval of 56 years that this fish has been re-discovered but from a different river system in Kerala. During these intervening years several surveys have been conducted in various river systems in Kerala, it was not reported. Jones obtained only 5 specimens from the Kallar stream, while we too could collect only a single specimen from the collection site. This suggests